

In the Matter of the Suspension )  
of the Educator Certificate of )  
Clarence M. Mitchell )  
Certificate # 192818 )

## SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 20, 2004. On July 1, 2003, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his certificate to Mr. Clarence M. Mitchell by certified mail, return receipt requested delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Mitchell received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Mitchell initially requested a hearing, which was scheduled for April 22, 2004, before John J. Fantry, Jr., Esquire, a hearing officer appointed by the State Board. Mr. Mitchell subsequently agreed through his attorney, Ronnie L. Saab, Esquire, to resolve the case without a hearing upon the following terms: (1) a public reprimand will be issued by the State Board, (2) he agrees that this public reprimand will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct," and (3) this order will be maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel of the Department. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to issue a public reprimand for Mr. Mitchell's conduct as agreed to by the parties.

Mr. Mitchell is a certified educator with over fourteen years of teaching experience credit. Mr. Mitchell was employed for the 2002-2003 school year with the Georgetown County School District (District) as a special education teacher at Carver's Bay Middle School. He was placed on administrative leave on February 21, 2003, and again on May 12, 2003. On both occasions, it was alleged that Mr. Mitchell made inappropriate comments to students. After he was placed on leave for the second time, he submitted his resignation after the school year. He was successfully employed by Florence School District Three for the 2003-2004 school year, and is under contract with that District for the 2004-2005 school year.

Clarence  
Mitchell  
#192818

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-150 (1990), S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. The Board finds just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke Mr. Mitchell's certificate, but there is substantial evidence to reprimand Mr. Mitchell for his conduct. Accordingly, the Board issues this Consent Order of Public Reprimand as set forth above.

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Mary E. Jones

Dr. Mary E. Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

July 20, 2004

**I, Clarence M. Mitchell, SC Teaching Certificate # 192818, do hereby agree to this Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Tuesday, July 20, 2004.**

7/1/04  
Date

/S/ Clarence Mitchell  
Signature